

York Conferences and events. Currently serving as Assistant Director for Recreation, Jim is responsible for the City's environmental and horticultural education programs and parks stewardship, as well as the oversight of the Rochester Public Market. Jim truly embodies the spirit of this region.

An example of Jim's creativity and dedication to the area is his close work with Parks and Trails New York to coordinate the annual "Cycle the Erie" bike tour, which showcases the Canalway's heritage. In addition, Jim is currently a Board member of the Genesee WaterWays Center. He is the former President and a current Foundation member of Monroe County Cooperative Extension. Jim serves as a member of many other related boards and organizations, including the Monroe County Parks Advisory Committee, the Ontario Beach Park Program Committee, the Farmers Market Federation of New York, and the National Association of Produce Market Managers. He is also the secretary and one of the founding board members of the Tony Jordan Youth Sports Foundation, which provides supplemental funding to enhance the quality and integrity of youth sports in the City of Rochester.

The Erie Canalway Corridor is a symbol of American ingenuity and perseverance, and I am grateful for Jim Farr's continued commitment to promoting its national significance by serving on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Jim Farr for his long record of public service.

#### HONORING EDDIE WONG

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eddie Wong, a man who has played a significant role in the ongoing restoration and development of the Angel Island Immigration Station in Marin County, CA. On June 30, 2012, Mr. Wong is retiring after four productive years as Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF).

Located off the coast of Tiburon, California, in Angel Island State Park, the Immigration Station is the site of the detention of 175,000 Chinese immigrants from 1910 to 1940. Because of the Chinese Exclusion Act, many of them were held for weeks, months or years in a prison-like barracks where life was difficult and humiliating.

The restoration of this Station and related educational projects recognize the struggle of these immigrants and our nation's challenge to honor our history of immigration. AIISF, with the hard work of its many supporters and partners, including the California State Parks and the National Park Service, has led these rehabilitation efforts. During Mr. Wong's tenure, the Immigration Station Museum opened, the Immigrant Heritage Wall was created, and the hospital at the site was stabilized.

The Angel Island Immigration Station now hosts more than 50,000 visitors, including 30,000 schoolchildren, every year. I have had the privilege of participating in this effort by

securing federal funding, and I share Eddie Wong's belief that with the partnership we have, we can complete the remaining work on this important testament to our rich and complex history.

Mr. Wong came to the Executive Director position with a strong background in the cultural social issues at stake. He graduated from UCLA with a BA and MFA from School of Fine Arts Motion Picture and Television Program. Before joining AIISF, he co-founded Visual Communications, the nation's first Asian American film production company, served as the Strategy and Investment Principal for Media and the Advisor on Social Justice for the Democracy Alliance, and was Executive Director of the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (now known as the Center for Asian American Media).

Understanding that the Angel Island Immigration Station site resonates personally with many immigrants, Mr. Wong says, "I think that my father, who was deported from Angel Island as a 15-year old and came back a year later determined to better his life, would be proud that a place of shame has now become a site of conscience."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Eddie Wong and in wishing him well in his retirement.

#### IN HONOR OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 600

#### HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teamsters Local Union No. 600, in celebration of their 100th anniversary and service to the members of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

Teamsters Local Union No. 600 is deserving of special public recognition for its many accomplishments. It has distinguished record of service to working men and women, as well as to their families. Its immeasurable contributions to the advancement of the union labor movement in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area have made our community a better place.

Teamsters Local Union No. 600 has worked to improve the working conditions, benefits, and wages for the men and women of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. In addition, their influence was appreciated and felt by those who drove freight trucks, worked in warehouses, made milk deliveries, and worked at the Anheuser Busch beer distributorships.

But there work has not only been limited to St. Louis. As a Member the US House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Teamsters Local Union No. 600 advice and counsel has been invaluable to me when working on local, regional, and national transportation issues.

Teamsters Local Union No. 600 has also lead the way in providing employers in the transportation industry with the best trained employees, making it possible for the goods and services that millions of Americans rely on to be delivered safely, on time and in good condition. This kind of commitment by the

Teamsters makes our US economy work, grow, and prosper for all us.

Again, I congratulate Teamsters Local Union No. 600 on their 100th Anniversary, and wish them more success in the future.

#### IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL SOTO PRINCIPAL OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PUBLIC SCHOOL 57

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dear friend and great force in the education of our children, Israel Soto, principal of James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy Public School 57, who is retiring after a long career in public education service. Israel, a Puerto Rican immigrant, began his career in education in my congressional district as a school bilingual coordinator and as an assistant director of bilingual education in Washington Heights.

In 1999, Israel ascended to principal of James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy Public School 57, a pre-K-8 school in East Harlem/El Barrio, which is also a part of my district. Mr. Soto's expertise in bilingual education and the fact that his second language was English, like many of the school's students, made him an ideal choice for principal. His talents extend to all facets of education, and under his leadership, James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy has gone from a near-failing school to one that received a grade of "A" in its latest Progress Report and is ranked in the 93rd percentile of all New York City K-8 schools.

Principal Soto has deservedly received numerous awards during his tenure. In 2001, he was named "Principal of the Month" in his school district and in 2004 was recognized as the "Educator of the Week" by Univision 41 Nueva York. Israel has also been inducted into the "Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals" at Columbia University as well as being honored by Children 4 Children, the YMCA of New York, the New York Post, and El Diario La Prensa.

Principal Soto's work at James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy serves as a model for current and future educators. He has built strong partnerships with teachers, parents, community organizations, and the private sector while keeping his focus internal, on his students. This outreach has significantly increased the academic resources available to his students and demonstrates the supreme importance of an active and charismatic principal and leader.

On Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the elegant Marina del Rey, the Soto Retirement Committee joined the East Harlem/El Barrio community of leaders, children, parents, families, friends, and education advocates to pay tribute to our Dream Maker Principal Israel Soto.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring a great man and an impassioned educator who, first and foremost, believes in all of our extraordinary children.